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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Cuban Unit Pumps Lisbon on NATO

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Intelligence reports claim that a Cuban military delegation has been pumping Portuguese officers in Lisbon for NATO secrets. The Cubans were particularly curious, according to the reports, about U.S. naval maneuvers in the Caribbean.

This confirms the worst fears of other NATO partners, who have been worried about NATO security since the Communist-leaning junta took over Portugal.

As a NATO member, Portugal has had access to NATO codes and classified documents. Lisbon also has been kept informed on NATO policies, strategies and tactics.

Since the Communist sympathizers have come to power in Portugal, NATO codes have been changed and Lisbon has been cut off from the flow of sensitive information. But a trickle of data reaches Portugal from its NATO conferees.

In an earlier column, we reported the arrival in Lisbon of a Cuban delegation that included army commanders Senen Gasas Regueiro and Fernando Vecino Alegret and navy Capt. Emigdio Baez.

Their surprise appearance was passed off by Lisbon as a ceremonial visit. But our intelligence sources are convinced that the Cubans received secret briefings on NATO and other military matters.

The Cubans met at Portugal's Armed Forces Movement Sociology Center with junta chief

Vasco Goncalves, Gen. Carlos Fabiao, Adm. Antonio Rosa Coutinho and Col. Varela Gomes. The last runs the center.

Coutinho has been dubbed the "Red admiral" by Portuguese settlers in Angola. As governor of the colony, Goutinho encouraged the pro-Moscow faction and helped it get Soviet arms through Luanda and Lobito. This enflamed the three-cornered war in Angola and forced the settlers to flee to Portugal.

The Cubans pressed their Portuguese comrades, meanwhile, for information about NATO, especially the U.S. Navy's annual Operation Springboard maneuvers near Cuba.

It is understood that the Portuguese military leaders cooperated, but there is no firm intelligence on what secrets were compromised.

Footnote: On Aug. 17, according to our sources, the "Red admiral" visited Cuba at the invitation of Defense Minister Raul Castro. The admiral was greeted by some of the Cubans he met at the center in Portugal.

Another Cover-up—The General Services Administration, according to inside sources, has withheld key documents from FBI investigators. The FBI has until the end of the year to crack a \$50 million building scandal in Philadelphia involving close associates of Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.).

Thereafter, the statutory deadline for prosecution runs out.

The FBI, following up on a civil suit that was settled out of

court for a reported \$1.5 million, is investigating the government's use of the Gateway Building in Philadelphia. Here are the details:

Uncle Sam, seeking office space in Philadelphia, advertised for bids. GSA selected Gateway, the highest bidder, to receive the contract. At the time of the award, the Gateway building didn't exist; the site was a vacant lot.

The contract called for annual rents of about \$2.6 million for at least 20 years. This would add up to more than \$50 million. The government probably could have built its own building for about one-third of that.

Not surprisingly, there were charges of favoritism and irregularities from competing developers. The civil case, before it was settled out of court, turned up numerous allegations of fraud and corruption.

The damaging evidence assembled as part of the suit has been impounded by the court. And no one, least of all GSA, seems anxious to help put together a strong case before the statute of limitations runs out.

Our sources have knowledge that important documents have been withheld from the FBI, apparently, to cover up the role of Robert J. Kunzig, the former administrator, and Arthur F. Sampson, the current administrator.

Footnote: Scott has consistently denied any role in the contract award. The Justice Department confirmed that the

statute of limitations would run out at the end of the year, but claimed that GSA had cooperated with the FBI. Our sources have information to the contrary. A spokeswoman for GSA declined to comment.

Postscript From Chicago—In an earlier column, we reported that President Nixon defended Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley in 1970 after Attorney General John N. Mitchell threatened to cut the mayor "to shreds."

Those present during the conversation went away with the impression that the Justice Department as a result, might have been lenient with Daley in an investigation.

We asked former U.S. Attorney James Thompson to ask whether the Justice Department had tried to influence his investigation of Daley. Thompson told us that he had received no instructions on Daley from the Justice Department.

Although he had not assigned a "hit squad" to go after Daley, Thompson said, he investigated all reports of wrongdoing by the mayor and submitted information to a grand jury. But it was insufficient, Thompson said, to justify any action against Daley.

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